

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 165322

FOR ATTENTION OF HOLLEY BELL

FOLLOWING REPEAT BOGOTA 6639 ACTION SECSTATE INFO PARIS
SAN JOSE 30 JUNE 76.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 6639

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AORG UNESCO XM SL SK CO

SUBJ: UNESCO REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE SAN
JOSE

REF: STATE 153675

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS DISCUSSED SUBJECT MEETING WITH DR. JUAQUIN
FONSECA, UNDERSECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS,
FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND DR. JUAN CARLOS ESGUERRA, VICE MINISTER
OF COMMUNICATIONS ON JUNE 28 AND 30 RESPECTIVELY. ESGUERRA
WILL HEAD THE COLOMBIAN DELEGATION. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY
SENORA PILAR SANTAMARIA DE REYES, DIRECTOR OF RADIO AND TELE-
VISION, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, AND POSSIBLY IVAN BOTERO,
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS IN THE NATIONAL PLANNING OFFICE,
AND DR ALICIA GONZALEZ, CHIEF OF SPECIAL AGENCIES DIVISION,
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AND DR ALICIA GONZALEZ, CHIEF OF SPECIAL AGENCIES DIVISION,

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. LATTER TWO ARE NOT YET FIRM.

2. ESGUERRA EXPRESSED GOC CONCERN THAT SUBJECT CONFERENCE MAY BE POLITICIZED AND STATE THAT GOC WOULD RESIST SUCH EFFORTS. HE EXPECTED A RESOLUTION WOULD BE INTRODUCED PROPOSING MORE GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA AND THAT COLOMBIA WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION. THE RESOLUTION WOULD NOT IN ANY CASE BE BINDING. GOC POLICY WILL CONTINUE TO FAVOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN PERIMETERS ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE CONSTITUTION, HE STRESSED, GUARANTEES FREEDOM OF THE PRESS/

3. ESGUERRA SAID THERE WOULD BE A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE PROGRAM FOR EXPANDING EDUCATION HE SAID THIS IS AN IMPRACTICAL PROPOSAL SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY DIVERGENCIES BETWEEN THE POLITICS OF THE SEVERAL LATIN MAERICAN COUNTRIES AND NO ONE COUNTRY WOULD WANT ITS EDUCATIONAL POLICIES SUBJECTED TO AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. HE SAID THERE WOULD ALSO BE A PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE USE OF COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA FOR EDUCATION PURPOSES. HE SAID COLOMBIA WILL FAVOR THIS INITIATIVE BECAUSE "IT IS LIKE THE FAVORING MOTHERHOOD."

4. ESGUERRA SAID THAT A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION WILL FOCUS ON COSTA RICA. VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA SINCE THESE ARE THE ONLY THREE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES WITH A FREE PRESS IN ALL OF LATIN AMERICA. HE EMPHASIZED THAT COLOMBIA HAS A TRADITION OF A FREE AND PRIVATELY OWNED PRESS AND THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT EXERS MORE CONTROL OVER TELEVISION AND RADIO THESE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA ALSO OPERATE UNDER THE CONCEPT OF FREEDOM.

5. ASKED HIS OPINION ABOUT A UPI STORY IN THE BOGOTA PRESS JUNE 30 IN WHICH INTER-AMERICAN PRESS SOCIETY PRESIDENT RAYMOND DIX IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT UNESCO HAS NOT INVITED SIP TO PARTICIPATE IN SUBJECT CONFERENCE, ESGUERRA EXPRESSED GOVERNMENT POSITION, HIS OWN VIEW WAS THT SIP SHOULD BE GIVEN OBSERVER STATUS. DREXLER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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